

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193710
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 /046 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DLSCHIELE:EK
APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN
IO/UNP:RLBARRY
S/PRS:KBROWN

-----046401 160229Z /70

P 160122Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PORG, UN, RQ

SUBJECT:PRESS GUIDANCE ON COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION
OF PUERTO RICO

1. WE HAVE PREPARED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE OF
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE QUESTIONS
ON COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. PRESS
QUERIES AT USUN SHOULD BE ANSWERED ALONG SAME LINES.

2. PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION: THE UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE
OF 24) IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF PUERTO
RICO TODAY. WILL THE US DEFEND PUERTO RICO'S
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COMMONWEALTH STATUS?

ANSWER: WE CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF
PUERTO RICO TO BE A MATTER OUTSIDE THE COMPETENCE OF
THE UN OR ITS COMMITTEES. THIS IS A DOMESTIC MATTER
BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT. FOR THIS REASON WE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN

COMMITTEE OF 24 DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER.

US POLICY ON PUERTO RICO IS BASED ON FULL
ACCEPTANCE OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO
TO SELF-DETERMINATION. COMMONWEALTH STATUS IS BASED ON
THE FREE CHOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO, WHO
APPROVED THAT STATUS IN 1952 BY APPROVING THEIR
CONSTITUTION, AND REAFFIRMED THE CHOICE IN A 1967 STATUS
REFERENDUM. SHOULD THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO DESIRE
TO CHANGE THEIR STATUS, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED
THAT HE WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER STATUS THEY CHOOSE.

QUESTION: PUERTO RICANS REPRESENTING A WIDE RANGE OF
POLITICAL OPINION ARE APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.
DOESN'T THIS UNDERCUT THE US POSITION THAT IT IS NOT
A QUESTION WITHIN UN COMPETENCE?

ANSWER: NO, THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO, JUST AS OTHER
AMERICAN CITIZENS, HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR
VIEWS ON A MATTER OF VITAL CONCERN TO THEM. WE WOULD
NOT WISH TO PREVENT THEM FROM APPEARING BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE OF 24 EVEN IF WE COULD DO SO. THIS RESPECT
FOR THE RIGHTS OF AMERICANS TO FREELY PRESENT THEIR
VIEWS DOES NOT ALTER THE FACT THAT THE STATUS OF
PUERTO RICO IS A DOMESTIC MATTER NOT PROPERLY
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CONSIDERED BY THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24. END QUOTE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY IO:GBHELMAN
APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 193710 ACTION USUN AUG 16.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 193710

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QUESTION: THE UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE
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FOR THE RIGHTS OF AMERICANS TO FREELY PRESENT THEIR VIEWS DOES NOT ALTER THE FACT THAT THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO IS A DOMESTIC MATTER NOT PROPERLY CONSIDERED BY THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24. END QUOTE. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770857/aaaabvxz.tel
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Litigation History:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE ON COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SOPN, CU, RQ, UN, C-24
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